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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 15 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the text of an appeal of the Parliament of Georgia to the international community (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 16, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 15 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The whole world, with deep concern, is closely watching how Russia is carrying out a full-scale occupation of Georgia. Encroachment of the sovereignty of an independent State and its military occupation represents a direct challenge to the security of Europe and the whole democratic community.

Land-based operations and bombardments are being carried out on the whole territory of Georgia. Russian armed forces barbarically bombed not only military and industrial facilities, but also peaceful population in different Georgian cities and villages, including the capital of Georgia, Tbilisi, as well as the cities Kutaisi, Gori, Kaspi, Kareli, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Zugdidi, Poti, Oni, Khelvachauri, Khashuri, Senaki and Dedoplistskaro. In addition, hospitals were bombed resulting in killing of wounded people and medical personnel there.

The Russian aviation and artillery have also ruined Tskinvali and nearby villages, as a result of which many Georgian and Ossetian peaceful people have been killed.

In the course of several days the Russian artillery and aviation have been bombing upper Abkhazia, and in the aftermath the Russian airborne forces launched an air, sea and land-based attack. Russian armed forces along with illegal formations of separatists occupied upper Abkhazia in violation of the United Nations Security Council's resolutions and other international agreements.

Currently, a substantial part of the territory of Georgia is occupied by Russian military units. The occupants seized the central highway connecting eastern and western Georgia, disrupted economic links between different regions, blockaded the port of Poti and the capital of Georgia, which may result in a humanitarian catastrophe.

Open terror and marauding are being carried out in the occupied territories and the peaceful Georgian population is being subjected to ethnic cleansing. The upper Abkhazia and Tskinvali regions have been emptied of population. Part of the population is under arrest and is subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment.

The international community must stand up to the aggression, brutality and full-scale ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the Russian Federation.

This aggression against Georgia constitutes a threat not only for Georgia but for the whole world.

The Russian Federation's aggression against a neighbouring State has demonstrated once again that Russia is not and cannot be a mediator or peacekeeper in the conflict regions of Georgia, because the so-called peacekeeping forces of Russia have turned into occupation forces. They must be replaced immediately by international peace contingents.

The Georgian authorities and Georgian people will not reconcile themselves with the presence, in any possible form, of occupation forces of an aggressor State on the territory of Georgia.

The Parliament of Georgia declares those territories occupied by Russian armed forces as occupied territories and calls upon the international community to do its utmost to make sure that military units of the aggressor State immediately leave the territory of Georgia, including the Tskinvali region and Abkhazia.

The Parliament of Georgia calls upon interparliamentary organizations and the parliamentary assemblies of international organizations to terminate the mandate of the parliamentary delegations of Russia, as representatives of an aggressor State.